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Typed or Printed Name	Teri Muir	
Signature	<i>Teri Muir</i>	Date
		JAN. 10, 2002

RESPONSE TO PAPER NO. 14

Address to:
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attorney Docket Confirmation No.	STAN-166
First Named Inventor	Crabtree
Application Number	09/716,054
Filing Date	November 17, 2000
Group Art Unit	1641
Examiner Name	Lisa V. Cook
Title	BIFUNCTIONAL MOLECULES AND THEIR USE IN THE DISRUPTION OF PROTEIN-PROTEIN INTERACTIONS

Dear Sir:

This communication is responsive to the office communication dated December 10, 2001 (i.e. paper No. 14).

In the above referenced office communication, the Examiner imposed a restriction requirement, requiring the election of the claims of either Group I, i.e., claims 1-3, 25 and 26; Group II, i.e., claims 16-24; or Group III, i.e., claims 27-39; for further prosecution in this application.

The Applicants hereby elect Group II with traverse.

The Applicants also respectfully urge the Examiner to rejoin the claims of Group III with the elected claims of Group II for examination in this application for the following reasons.

The MPEP allows an Examiner to examine otherwise patentably distinct sets of claims if to so would not impose an undue burden on the Examiner. M.P.E.P. § 8.03 states that:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.

In the present case, the claims of Group III are directed to a specific species of the genus of the claims of Group II. More specifically, the claims of Group II cover situations where the

bifunctional molecules includes or does not include a linking group, while the claims of Group III require the presence of a linking group.

The Examiner has already fully searched the claims of Group II, i.e., situations where a linking group is present and situations where a linking group is not present. This search for the claims of Group II would, by necessity, also have found any prior art relating to the claims of Group III, since the claims of Group III merely recite that a linking group or bond is present.

Accordingly, little, if any, additional searching should be required for the claims of Group III and therefore, the examination of the claims of Group III together with the claims of Group II should impose little, if any, additional burden on the Examiner.

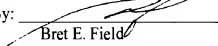
As such, examining the claims of Group II and Group III together in the present application clearly does not impose an undue or serious burden on the Examiner. In the absence of such an undue or serious burden, the Examiner is clearly instructed by the MPEP to examine the entire application. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to rejoin the claims of Group II and III and to examine all the claims together in the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815.

Respectfully submitted,

BOZICEVIC, FIELD & FRANCIS LLP

Date: 1.10.02

By: 
Bret E. Field
Registration No. 37,620

BOZICEVIC, FIELD & FRANCIS LLP
200 Middlefield Road, Suite 200
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Telephone: (650) 327-3400
Facsimile: (650) 327-3231

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